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The President's Message.

WAR DEPARTMENT.
The report of the Secretary of War at
the close of the operations of the War
Department, and the several bureaus of the War
Department.

The aggregate strength of the military
force on the 30th of September last, was
56,315.

The total estimate for military appropria-
tions is \$71,424,702, including the
deficiency in last year's appropriation of
\$13,600,000. The payments at the
Treasury on account of the service of the
War Department from January 1, to Oc-
tober 29, 1867, a period of ten months,
amounted at \$19,897,000.

The expenses of the military establish-
ment, as well as the numbers of the army,
are now three times as great as they have
ever been in time of peace, while discre-
tionary power is vested in the Executive
to add millions to this expenditure by an
increase of the army to the maximum
strength allowed by law.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

The menacing attitude of some of the
warlike bands of Indians, inhabiting the
district of country between the Arkansas
and Platte rivers, and portions of Dakota
Territory, required the presence of a large
military force in that region. Investigated
by real or imaginary grievances, the In-
dians have occasionally committed acts of
barbarous violence upon emigrants and
our frontier settlements, but a general In-
dian war has been providentially averted.

The Commissioners, under the act of
July 20, 1867, were invested with full
power to adjust existing difficulties, nego-
tiate treaties with disaffected bands, and
select for them reservations remote from
traveled routes through the Mississippi
and Pacific.

They entered without delay upon the
execution of their trust, but have not yet
made any official report of their proceed-
ings.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

The report of the Acting Commissioner
of Agriculture concisely presents the con-
dition, wants and progress of an interest
eminently worthy the fostering care of
Congress, and exhibits a large measure of
useful results achieved during the year,
to which it refers.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
The re-establishment of peace at home
and the resumption of extended trade,
travel and commerce abroad have served
to increase the balance in favor of the
Department for Foreign Affairs. None of
these questions, however, have seriously
disturbed our relations with other States.
The Republic of Mexico having been re-
lieved from foreign intervention, is en-
deavored to re-establish her constitutional
system of government. A good understand-
ing exists between our Government and the
Republics of Italy and San Domingo, and
our cordial relations with the Central and
South American States remain un-
interrupted. The tender made in con-
formity with the resolution of Congress
of the good offices of our Government,
with a view to an amicable adjustment of
peace between Brazil and her allies on
one side, and Paraguay on the other, and
Spain on the other, though kindly
received, has in neither case been fully
accepted by the belligerents. The war in
the Valley of the Parana is still vigorously
maintained. On the other hand, actual
hostilities between the Pacific States and
Spain have been more than a year since
ended, and shall on any proper occasion
be renewed, which have already been
made.

PUBLIC LANDS.

During the last fiscal year 7,041,114
acres of public land were disposed of, and
the cash receipts from sales and fees ex-
ceeded by one half million dollars the
sum realized from those sources during the
preceding year.

PENSIONERS.

The amount paid to pensioners, includ-
ing the expenses of disbursements, was
\$18,619,956; and 36,482 names were ad-
ded to the rolls. The entire number of
pensioners on the 30th of June last was
155,474.

PATENTS.

Eleven thousand six hundred and fifty-
five patents and designs were issued dur-
ing the year ending September 30, 1867,
and at that date the balance in the Treas-
ury to the credit of the Patent Fund was
\$286,007.

THE NAVY.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy
states that we have seen some active and
judiciously employed under efficient
and able commanders in protecting the
persons and property of American citi-
zens, maintaining the dignity and power
of the Government, and promoting the
commerce and business interests of our
countrymen in every part of the world.
Of two hundred and thirty-eight vessels
composing the present Navy of the United
States, 56 carrying 507 guns, are in
squadron service. During the year the
number of vessels in commission has been
reduced twelve, and there are thirteen less
on squadron duty than there were at the
date of the last report. A large number
of vessels were commenced and in course
of construction when the war terminated,
and although Congress has made the nec-
essary appropriations for their completion,
the Department has either suspended
work upon them or limited the slow com-
pletion of them, so as to meet the
contracts for machinery made with private
establishments. The total expenditures of
the Navy Department for the fiscal year
ending June 30, 1867, were \$31,034,011.
No appropriations have been made or re-
quired since the close of the war, for the
construction and repair of vessels, and for
steam machinery, ordnance, provisions
and clothing, fuel, hemp, &c. the balance
under these several heads having been
more than sufficient for current expendi-
tures. It should also be stated to the
credit of the Department, that besides
making no appropriations for the above
objects for the last two years, the Secre-
tary of the Navy, on the 30th of September
last, in accordance with the act of May
1st, 1869, requested the Secretary of the
Treasury to carry to the surplus fund the
sum of \$65,000,000, being the amount re-
ceived from sales of vessels and other war

The Indiana American.

"THE UNION, THE CONSTITUTION, AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAWS."
VOL. 6, NO. 52.] BROOKVILLE, IND., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1867. [WHOLE NO. 312

THE WEST INDIES.

The West India Islands were settled
and colonized by European States simul-
taneously with the settlement and coloni-
zation of the American continent. Most
of the colonies planted here became inde-
pendent nations in the close of the last
and the beginning of the present century.
Our own country embraces communities which
at one period were colonies of Great Britain,
France, Spain, Holland, Sweden and Russia.
The people in the West Indies, with the
exception of those of the Island of Hayti, have
never attained nor aspired to Independ-
ence, nor have they become prepared for
self-defense. Although possessing consid-
erable commercial value, they have
been held by the European States, from
Paradise to Athens, as a necessary
ward, but slowly and painfully upward.
All the significant facts in the history of
every race shows that it improved from
the very time of its first appearance, al-
though in some cases very slightly or
fitfully, and in others only up to a certain
point; and, consequently, that mankind
has made progress from the beginning. The
Dark Ages were an eclipse of the civiliza-
tion of Rome and Greece; but they were
the darkness before the dawn of day upon
a wider horizon, within which were all the
higher races of the earth. Human nature
has not always been the same. Its essence
is the same, but it has grown with the
pace of time, and has been developed by
self-culture. Of the race, as a whole, the
intellectual capacity has increased, and the
moral sense become finer as the world
grows older. The amelioration of human
society is due less to the conviction or the
conversion of individuals than to this de-
velopment of human nature. The signs of
this development appear first in individ-
uals, sometimes in not more than one or
two, in whom the effects of the change
which is taking place are so strong that
they can not be concealed; then others
find that they are not like those who have
gone before them, and most of those
around them; this discovery spreads as
new generations take the places of old
ones, and humanity has a new birth. The
man of a certain race in one age is a differ-
ent creature from the man of the same
race in a previous age. The man animal
is distinguished from the brute animal
chiefly by this capacity of development
and change of nature. But as the earlier
races of brute animals have passed away
and left no remains, the question arises,
so it would seem as if there must have been
races of man who passed away before those
who now rule the world. The remains of
some of these yet exist upon the earth.
The Mongol and the Negro are but human
savages who reached long ago—yet in the
history of man but a little while—their
full development, and are now moral
fossils. Other races have the capacity of
continuing the progress of development
which began in them when some of those
who already reached the point at which
for centuries they have stopped. There
was never a Fall of Man. Man began at
his lowest—mentally, morally, and I be-
lieve, even physically, and has risen.
There never was a Golden Age; but there
may be one hereafter. Aristotle was
nearer it than Adam; and we are nearer
than Aristotle. It is the conscientiousness
of his capabilities, and of how far short he
has yet fallen of them, which, in the en-
deavor to reconcile the possible with the
actual condition of the race, has led man
to the invention of Jewish Fall and the
Gentile Golden Age. It is because I have
seen and felt this almost ever since I be-
gan to think independently, that in spite
of my admiration of the poetical beauties
of the "Paradise Lost," I have never been
able to read it with interest hardly with
patience. Its subject seems to me absurdly
irreconcilable with the dictates of com-
mon sense and the facts of history. But
my reverence for Christianity is not there-
by disturbed; for let all this be as it may,
what has it to do with the teachings of the
Sermon on the Mount? (Nebukoe, in
Galaxy.)

Man Considered Scientifically.

I met, to-day, with the following pas-
sage in one of South's sermons: "An Ari-
stotle was but the rubbish of an Adam,
and Athens but the rudiments of Para-
dise." This is a pretty fanciful way of
putting an utterly groundless fancy, which
has possessed the mind of man for ages,
and which is the foundation, not of Chris-
tianity, but of the Jewish and Christian
religions. Bred in the strictest orthodox
faith and having to this day never read a
free thinking book, I can not help seeing
that if Adam is to be taken as a representa-
tive of primitive man, and Paradise as the
name of man's primitive habitation, the
movement from Adam to Aristotle, from
Paradise to Athens, was not upward, but
backward, and slowly and painfully upward.
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every race shows that it improved from
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Galaxy.)

Christmas—Its History.

Christmas Day is regarded throughout
the Christian world as the important day
of the year, and whether the birth of
Christ occurred on the twenty-fifth day of
December, or a few days earlier or later,
is a matter of no great moment. The sig-
nificance of setting apart a day consists in
the fact that all Christians, by general
consent, accept a specified time for the
celebration of this event.

In pagan Rome there was a yearly cele-
bration called the Saturnalia, or Festival
of Saturn, which was marked by the pre-
valence of a universal license and merry-
making. The slaves were then permitted
to enjoy a period of freedom in speech
and behavior; every one feasted and re-
joiced; work and business were entirely
suspended; houses were decorated with
laurels and evergreens; presents were
made by parents and friends, and all sorts
of games and amusements were indulged
in by the citizens. In the early ages of
Christianity, its ministers frequently ex-
perienced difficulty in inducing the con-
verts to refrain from indulging in the
popular amusements which were so largely
participated in by their pagan neighbors.
At last convinced, partly by the inefficacy
of denunciations, and partly influenced
by the idea that the spirit of Christianity
might thereby be advanced, the Church
endeavored to amalgamate, as it were, the
old and new religions, and sought, by
transferring the heathen ceremonies to
the solemnities of the Christian festivals,
to make them subservient to the cause of
religious piety. Engrafted thus on the
Roman Saturnalia, Christmas festivities
remained in England further changes and
modifications by having superadded to
them, first, the Brigid rites and supersti-
tions, and then, after the arrival of the
Saxons, the various ceremonies practiced
by the ancient Germans. The result has
been the strange medley of Christian and
pagan rites which contribute to make up
the festivities of the modern Christmas.
These ceremonies, rites, and symbols, once
full of meaning to pagans, have been
transferred without their meaning to
Christians, and have come to have an en-
tirely new and different signification.
This, at least, is true; they have come to
mean joy at the birth of the Saviour. Joy
in view of his love for mankind, joy in
burying animosities and reviving friend-
ship among men, and last, but not least,
in opening peculiar joy to millions of
little folks who are not old enough to un-
derstand the mysteries of mythology or
the intricacies of theology.

On the evening of the twenty-fourth of
December, or Christmas Eve, the Chris-
mas holiday may be said to commence.
Sir Walter Scott gives a picture of Chris-
mas Eve in the olden time in verse, as
follows:

Inside a Printing Office.

It is not alone composers who will en-
joy the following. It is a capital and
very forcible illustration of a printing of-
fice dialogue.

Foreman of the office.—"Jones, what
are you at now?"
Composer.—"I'm setting 'A House on
Fire,' almost done."
Foreman.—"What is Smith about?"
Composer.—"He's engaged on 'A
Horrid Murder.'"
Foreman.—"Finish it as quickly as
possible, and help Morse through with his
'Telegraph.' Bob what are you trying to
do?"
Bob.—"A Panic in the Money Mar-
ket."
Foreman.—"Thomas, what are you dis-
tributing?"
Thomas.—"Prizes in the Lottery."
Foreman.—"Stop that and take hold of
'A Runaway Horse.' Slocum, what in
creation have you been about this last half
hour?"
Slocum.—"Justifying the 'Compromise
Measure' my sub set up."
Foreman.—"You, chap on the stool
there, what are you on now?"
Chap on the stool.—"On the 'Table' that
you gave me."
Foreman.—"Lay it on the table for the
present, no room for it."
Composer.—"How about these 'Muni-
cipal Candidates'?"
Foreman.—"Kan 'em in. What do you
say, Slocum?"
Slocum.—"Shall I lead these Men of
Boston?"
Foreman.—"No; they are solid, of
course."
Composer.—"Do you want a full-faced
head to 'Jenny Lind's Family'?"
Foreman.—"No; put on in small cap,
Joseph, lay 'em up that 'Capital
Judge'?"
Joseph.—"No sir, I'm out of sorts."
Foreman.—"Well throw in this 'Mil-
lion of California Gold,' and when you
get through with it I'll give you some
more."
Editor.—"What do you want now?"
Deviljee.—"More copy sir."
Editor.—"Have you completed that
'Eloquent Thanksgiving Discourse'?"
Deviljee.—"Yes, sir, and I have just
set up 'A Warm Winter.'"

A Mother's Voice.

Since the prevailing Indian troubles
commenced, an Indian camp was captured,
together with a number of prisoners, in-
cluding squaws, and some half dozen white
captives, boys and girls, from five to
twelve years of age. Word was sent throug-
out the country, inviting those who had
lost children to come to the camp and
identify, if possible, their children, as
some of them could give any account of
their parents were, or where they were
taken from, so young were they when they
were taken captives by the Indians.
Numbers went to the camp—many more
than there were children—and of course
many of them returned with heavy hearts
at being unable to find their lost ones.

Among the number who went hundreds
of miles to the camp, was a mother who
lost two children—a boy and a girl, one
three and the other five years old—years
ago. Efforts were made to persuade her
not to go, and so long a time had elapsed,
it was certain she could not identify her
children, even if they stood before her.
But she could not rest; she must go, and
go she did. On arriving at the encampment,
she found the captives ranged in
line for inspection. She looked at them
first from a distance, her anxious heart
bounded in her bosom. But she did not
see her children; at least she saw nothing
in the group that bore the slightest resem-
blance to her baby boy and girl as they
looked when playing about her door step.
She drew nearer, and peered deep into the
eyes of each, who only returned her look
with a stony gaze yet anxious ones—they
too hoping to see something in her that
would tell them she was her mother.
She looked long and steadily at them, as
her heart began to sink and grow heavy
in her bosom. At last with a gasp and
sob, she withdrew, and when some paces
off she stopped and turned about quickly,
as, apparently, a thought had occurred to
her. Drying her eyes, she broke forth in
a sweet hymn she had been wont to sing
to her children as a lullaby. Scarcely a
line had been uttered when two of the
captives—a boy and a girl—rushed from
the line, exclaiming, "Mamma! mamma!"
The mother went home perfectly satisfied
she had found her long-lost children.

An unfortunate man, who had never
drank water enough to warrant disease, was
reduced to such a state of droopy that a
consultation of physicians was held upon
his case. They agreed tapping was neces-
sary, and the poor patient was invited
to submit to the operation which he
seemed to do in spite of the entreaties of
his son, a boy seven years old.

"Oh, father, father do not let them
tap you," said the young hopeful; "do
not let them tap you!"

"Why my dear, it will do me good and
I shall live long in health and make you
happy."

"No father, no; you will not. There
never was anything tapped in our house
that lasted longer than a week!"

Some Advice.

We translate the following from Josh
Billings into English, especially for the
perusal of the honest and prudent
readers. Of course, the young men will
not care to read it, but it has a good deal
of iron, as the man said when he knocked
his friend down with a poker.

My young friends, you are about to be-
gin life, and although it may seem de-
finitely impossible to you, nevertheless you
will be liable to make some mistakes while
you are scoring, or during the first mile
or two.

Let me mix up a little advice for you
to take till you get to trusting steady.
You will observe the advice is designed
for young gentlemen who show every
sign of speed, and also that I would
right from the shoulder.

1. Treat the old man and the old woman
as your equals; smile when they exhort
and laugh when they sneer, for a young
man can hope for success in the ornate
walk of life who does not wear the belt
at home.
2. If you can't raise a mistake, com-
mit suicide at once and begin again; for
it is better to die than to suffer disgrace.
3. Cultivate politeness—politeness is a
good subject for bravery—only be a
little careful to pick your customers when
you try it.
4. Keep a trotter and fighting rooster.
These animals will let you into the con-
fidence of men who will watch their
morals and nose your genius.
5. Avoid the old fogies, they are a
miserable set of cowardly croakers, who,
like a third rate dog, have learned what
little they know about virtue by simply
being overmatched in a fair fight.
6. Suspect all lenient virtues. This
will give you an easy flow of ambiguous
language while in the society of the ladies,
and enable you to avoid an acquaintance
with any one who can call something
virtue.
7. If you get desperate, and must work
very hard for success—marrying for blood
or for love is too sloppy for a man of
spirit. Love is a low passion, and is
designed for two-story houses on one of
the back streets, not for a brown stone
palace.
8. By all means, never wear, and
smoke freely, and don't ever mistake
rain water for milk punch, unless you
want a soft thing.
9. Call religion a stock jobber's pig-
sticker to catch fish with; that virtue is
only the gilded impudence of conceit,
that wisdom is but an eye that is added
laugh at all things that are solemn, and
swear that Bechus and Youzars the
only two gods fit to be worshipped.
10. Young men, cultivate all the above
virtues, and add to them what the ardor
of your genius may inspire, and if the home
jockeys and pimps generally don't say
you are a brack of the brightest hue,
if the devil don't make you wide blither-
ing proposals, the days of civility are
passed forever, and pudding and milk
has got more glory in it than a brandy mash,
a rum sour, or even a tom and his
young man, (a few words with you in
private), let these cheerful remarks settle
down into you when you get to reflecting
at 12 o'clock some rainy night.
11. Don't make a fool of yourself by trying
to jump 65 feet at a jump and land among
the "B boys" at once, but examine your
build closely and see if you are not better
constructed for something home-tapping.
12. If you find you must go to despair,
then put on all the steam you can carry,
and either burst or get there as soon as
possible.
13. When you get there and have had
enough of it, just drop me a line and I
will see what can be done for you. But
don't forget one thing—that the road
back is three times as far, and is all the
way up hill besides.

THE PURCHASE OF ALASKA.

It will hardly be necessary to call
the attention of Congress to the subject
of providing for the payment to Russia
of the sum stipulated in the treaty for the
cession of Alaska. Possession having
been formally delivered to our Commis-
sioner, the Territory remains for the pres-
ent, in a state of military force, awaiting
such civil organization as shall be directed
by Congress.

CLAIMS FOR MILITARY SERVICE OF NATURALIZED AMERICANS.

The annexation of many small German
States to Prussia, and the reorganization
of that country under a new and liberal
constitution, have induced me to renew
the effort to obtain a just and prompt set-
tlement of a long vexed question concern-
ing the claims of foreign states of military
service from their subjects naturalized in
the United States; and, in connection with
this subject, the attention of Congress is
respectfully called to this singular and
embarrassing conflict of laws. The Execu-
tive Department of this Government has
hitherto uniformly held, as it now holds,
that naturalization in conformity with the
Constitution and laws of the United States
absolves the recipient from his native al-
legiance. The Courts of Great Britain hold
that allegiance to the British Crown is in-
defeasible, and is not absolved by our laws
of naturalization. British Judges cite the
courts and law authorities of the United
States, in support of that theory against
the position held by the Executive as the
authority of the United States. This con-
flict perplexes the public mind concern-
ing the rights of naturalized citi-
zens, and impairs the national authority
abroad.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

No arrangement has, as yet, been
reached for the settlement of our claims
for British depredations on commerce of
the United States. I have felt it my duty
to decline the proposition of arbitration,
made by Her Majesty's Government, be-
cause it has hitherto been accompanied by
reservations and limitations incompatible
with the rights, interests, and honor of
our country. It is not to be apprehended
that Great Britain will persist in her refusal
to satisfy these just and reasonable
claims, which involve the sacred principle
of non-intervention—a principle hence-
forth not more important to the United
States than to any other commercial na-
tion.

Three Important Things.

Three things to love—Courage, gentle-
ness and affection.
Three things to admire—Intellectual
power, dignity and gracefulness.
Three things to hate—Cruelty, arro-
gance and ingratitude.
Three things to delight in—Beauty,
frankness and freedom.
Three things to wish for—Health,
friends and a cheerful spirit.
Three things to pray for—Faith, peace
and purity of heart.
Three things to like—Cordiality, good
humor and mischiefness.
Three things to avoid—Idleness, lo-
quacity and sippant jesting.
Three things to cultivate—Good books,
good friends and good humor.
Three things to contend for—Honor,
country and friends.
Three things to govern—Temper,
tongue and conduct.
Three things to think about—Life,
death and eternity.

Crimes.

Our country is filled with crime of all
descriptions. Not an exchange of daily
news to our notice but is filled with
stories of terrible events, such as murders,
robberies, suicides and all manner of
crime. Indeed wickedness seems to stalk
unhindered over the whole world, caused
by ignorance, drunkenness, jealousy, and
the hundreds of other conditions that pro-
duce crime. It would seem that in time
of peace such a state of things should not
exist. How shall a change be brought
about? We need something that will
prevent the committing of crime rather
than more punishment for those who de-
part from the right. We need a better
system of education and a more practical
religion.

SYMPATHY AND BENEVOLENCE.

Sympathy and benevolence constitute those
finer feelings of the soul which at once
support and adorn human nature.

Music in Church.

In Philadelphia, one pleasant Sunday
evening, an old lady, whose failing eyes
demanded an unusually large prayer book,
started for church a little early. Stop-
ping on the way to call on a friend, she
laid her prayer-book on the table. When
the bells began to chime, she snatched
what she supposed to be her prayer book,
and started for church. Her seat was at
the channel end of the gallery. The or-
gan ceased playing. The minister said:
"The Lord is in his Holy temple, let all
the earth keep silence before him." In
the effort to open her supposed prayer-
book she started the spring of the lullaby
box, which she had taken instead. It be-
gan to play—in her consternation she put
it on the floor. It would not stop—she
put it on her seat—it sounded louder than
ever. Finally she carried it out while it
played the "Washing Day," an Irish jig.

SPENDING THE SABBATH.

A Scotch lady from a country town in the highlands
being taken to Edinburgh, and hearing
modern singing in a church for the first
time, was asked by the lady who took
her there what she thought of the music.
"It's vera bonny, vera bonny, but, O
my leddy! it's an awfu' way of peuling
the Sabbath!"

CONTRADICTION.

It may seem strange
but it is a fact well known to those who
have but a slight and superficial acquain-
tance with science, that, if you keep a
fire thoroughly covered, you will probably
keep yourself thoroughly warm.

FOLLY VERSUS KNAVERY.

Self denial
leads to the most exalted pleasures; and
the conquest of evil habits is the most
glorious triumph. This much better to be
thought a fool than to be a knave.

WIFE.

"Wife, I thought you said you were go-
ing to have a good for dinner?"
"So I did, and I've kept my word."
"Where is it?"
"Why, here, sir, it's here for din-
ner?"
"Smokers couldn't see the point of that
joke."

GREAT AND SMALL.

What will paralyze
small minds may incite larger ones, as the
breath which extinguished the candle will
kindle and strengthen the flame upon the
hearth stone.

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